

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Cleo Jean Erickson was born November 13, 1926, in the same Clay County farmhouse as her father, on Dakota Territory land granted to her homesteading great-grandfather by President Johnson in 1866; and,

Whereas, Cleo graduated from Busy Bend #9 country school in Clay County and University High School in Vermillion, South Dakota. She returned to Vermillion to raise her children after living in various states as she and her husband began their careers after WWII; and,

Whereas, Cleo was one of the founding mothers of the Clay County Historical Society in 1968 – a group that came together to save the oldest surviving home in Clay County. She became “President Emeritus” and “Permanent Director” of the Clay County Historical Society as the daily cheerful face and voice of the Society, compiling and sharing county family histories with South Dakotans around the world from the Society’s headquarters in the Austin-Whittemore House, now on the federal Historic Register, for the past fifteen years; and,

Whereas, Cleo provided historic treasures to countless customers of “Jean’s Antiques” for nearly two decades in Vermillion; and,

Whereas, Cleo will be recognized on July 20, 2014, for her lifelong dedication to the history of Clay County as a labor of love which she undertook for the benefit of future generations of South Dakotans seeking to know their families and their lives on the prairie; and,

Whereas, Cleo has been recognized by no lesser an authority than the South Dakota State Historical Society with its prestigious “Preservation Achievement Award”; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to honor this outstanding South Dakotan whose life work of preserving history has made her a part of this state’s permanent history:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 20, 2014, as

CLEO ERICKSON DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Fourteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State